

### REMARKS/ARGUMENT

On April 9, 2002, a Preliminary Amendment together with a check in payment of the fee for additional claims were signed and dispatched to be hand carried to the PTO. They were actually filed on the 10<sup>th</sup> of April. The current Office Action was mailed on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April and had not yet been received when the Preliminary Amendment was filed.

Applicants desire to have the claims set forth in the Preliminary Amendment be the claims in this application. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner ensure that the Preliminary Amendment was entered and the claims as so amended now constitute the claims in this application. For the convenience of the Examiner, a duplicate copy of the Preliminary Amendment is attached hereto. The additional claim fee referred to in the Preliminary Amendment has already been received by the PTO.

It is respectfully submitted that entry of the Preliminary Amendment will render the rejection under 35 USC 102 or 103 over Massol or Lakatos moot. Both of these references were cited in the parent application which was found to be patentable thereover. The claims after the Preliminary Amendment generally correspond to the claims allowed in the parent application with the additional changes detailed in the Preliminary Amendment. It is respectfully submitted that the claims herein are allowable over these references for the same reasons that the claims are allowed in the parent application. The additional changes in the present case do not detract from those reasons.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the prior art rejection should be withdrawn.

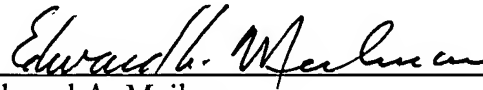
Rejections were also advanced in the outstanding Office Action based on obviousness type double patenting over the claims of the patents issued on the three parent applications as well as claims in US Patent No. 6,156,683. It is respectfully submitted that each of these rejections has been rendered moot by the submission of a terminal disclaimer

concurrently herewith. Since processing of the submitted Terminal Disclaimer will undoubtedly take a period of time, a copy is attached hereto for the convenience of the Examiner.

In light of all of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition to be allowed and the early issuance of Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Dated: August 9, 2002

Respectfully submitted,



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